

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 04509 260016Z

10

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /068 W

----- 077736

R 252218Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4631

INFO HAN CANAL

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 4509

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PFOR, PQ

SUBJECT: CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: NACR SESSION V: ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION

REF: PANAMA 4480, 4481, 4482, 4495

SUMMARY: THE NACR RESOLUTION OF JULY 18 CONCERNING THE TREATY
NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CANAL PROBLEM WHICH
THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PANAMANIAN HAVE ACCEPTED AS PART OF THEIR
COLLECTIVE VALUE SYSTEM. THE RESOLUTION PROCEEDED TO EXPRESS THE
NACR'S TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN TORRIJOS AND HIS NEGOTIATORS, AND TO
SKETCH OUT CERTAIN PEACEFUL OPTIONS BY WHICH THE GOP MIGHT INCREASE
ITS LEVERAGE ON THE U.S. THESE INCLUDE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS
WITH THE USSR AND THE PRC AND JOINING THE NONALIGNED BLOC THIS
YEAR. IT ALSO RESOLVED TO EXHORT COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL ORGANI-
ZATIONS TO FULLY SUPPORT TORRIJOS IN HIS EFFORTS. NOW WHEN THE
CREDIBILITY OF GOP'S NEGOTIATING EFFORTS HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO
QUESTION AND THE PROSPECTS FOR RAPID CONCLUSION OF THE NEGOTIA-
TIONS ARE FADING, TORRIJOS NEEDED THIS RENEWED EXPRESSION OF
POPULAR SUPPORT. IT WILL HELP HIM DEFEND HIS DECISION TO CON-
TINUE WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE PROTRACTED.
THE SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION FOR HIM TO EXPLORE ALL "PEACEFUL"

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 04509 260016Z

MEANS OF ACHIEVING PANAMA'S OBJECTIVES IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE TORRIJOS CAN USE IT AS AN EXCUSE FOR INACTION WHEN EXTREMISTS URGE USE OF VIOLENT ACTION. THE RESOLUTION WILL HELP TORRIJOS MANAGE POLITICAL PRESSURES IN PANAMA WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROGRESSING. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH THE RESOLUTION ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CORREGIMIENTO REPRESENTATIVES JULY 18 MAY CONTAIN NO NEW INFORMATION FOR U.S. OFFICIALS WHO HAVE HAD DIRECT CONTACT WITH PANAMANAIANS OVER TIME, IT IS AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT. AS FBIS PANAMA 182103Z, 190#41Z, 190125Z JULY 75 TRANSMITTED THE FULL TEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT, WE WILL NOT REPEAT IT HERE BUT WILL COMMENT ON ITS CONTENTS. THE FIRST HALF OF THE LENGTHY "WHEREAS" SECTION OF THE RESOLUTION CONTAINS AN EXTREMELY ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE OVERSHELMING MAJORITY OF PANAMANAIANS VIEW THE CANAL ISSUE. FOR THEM IT IS NOT MERELY AN IMPORTANT POLICY ISSUE BUT AN INTEGRAL PART OF THEIR PATRIOTIC CREDO.

2. SOME KEY ELEMENTS OF THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CANAL PROBLEM CONTAINED IN THE RESOLUTION ARE THAT:

--THE U.S., ACTING UNDER A SEMI-IMPOSED TREATY AND ITS UNILATERAL INTERPRETATION OF THAT TREATY, HAS CREATED A COLONIAL ENCLAVE IN PANAMANIAN TERRITORY.

--PANAMA'S NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY ARE THEREBY COMPROMISED.

--PANAMA ISSUE IS COMMON ISSUE FOR ALL OF LATIN AMERICA AND PANAMA HAS UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FROM THE REST OF LATIN AMERICA FOR ITS RIGHTS AS TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGN.

--PANAMANAIANS WANT DEMILITARIZATION AND NEUTRALIZATION OF THE CANAL ZONE AND USE OF CANAL AS AN INSTRUMENT OF PEACE.

--THE "COLONIAL ENCLAVE", PERPETUITY CLAUSE, AND "OVERWHELMING PRESENCE" OF U.S. ARMED FORCES ARE A SOURCE OF SHAME FOR PANAMA, MAKING IT "A VICTIM OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND OCCUPATION."

--SNYDER AMENDMENT WAS "GROSS AND INSULTING GESTURE" NOT ONLY TO PANAMA BUT TO OAS AND LATIN AMERICAN PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS, AND IT CALLS INTO QUESTION THE CREDIBILITY OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PANAMA 04509 260016Z

U.S. SPOKESMEN.

--SNYDER AMENDMENT NEGATES ANTICOLONIALIST IDEALS WHICH GAVE RISE TO U.S. INDEPENDENCE AND CAUSES DETERIORATION OF THE UNITED STATES' IMAGE IN LATIN AMERICA.

3. OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE RESOLUTION WHICH RELATE TO THE NACR'S SUPPORT FOR TORRIJOS, THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE GOP'S IMMEDIATE

CONDUCT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ITS FOREIGN POLICY ARE:

--PANAMA IS ENGAGED IN A HARD STRUGGLE TO OBTAIN FULL

INDEPENDENCE, AND ANY FORMULA ACCEPTED MUST PROTECT ITS
"SOVEREIGN ATTRIBUTES" AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

--PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT HAS THE OBLIGATION TO EXPLORE
PEACEFUL OPTIONS TO INSURE THAT THE CANAL AND THE PANAMANIAN
TERRITORY THAT IS THE CANAL ZONE COME UNDER FULL PANAMANIAN
SOVEREIGNTY.

--THESE PEACEFUL OPTIONS INCLUDE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, "INCLUDING PRESENT
MEMBERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH INCLUDES THE USSR AND
THE PRC," INCORPORATION OF PANAMA AS A MEMBER OF THE NONALIGNED
NATIONS MEETING IN LIMA THIS AUGUST, INSCRIPTION OF THE PANAMA
ISSUE ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ENSURING THAT
ALL HEMISPHERIC CONGRESSES STATE THEIR POSITION ON THE CANAL
ISSUE, EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING A CONFERENCE OF LATIN
AMERICAN ARMY CHIEFS TO CONSIDER CONCERTED ACTIONS WITHIN THE
PRONOUNCEMENTS OF THE UN TO END THE "COLONIALIST" SITUATION
IN PANAMA.

--TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION MEASURES OF THE AYACUCHO DECLARA-
TION SIGNED IN LIMA DECEMBER 9, 1974 WHICH CALLED FOR THE

ELIMINATION OF COLONIALIST SITUATIONS IN THE LATIN AMERICAN
CONTINENT.

--ALL SECTORS OF PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT ARE FIRMLY UNITED.

--REPORTS ON THE NEGOTIATIONS SUBMITTED BY CHIEF OF GOVERN-
MENT AND FOREIGN MINISTRY "CONSTITUTE A CLEAR HISTORY OF
PATRIOTISM THAT SIGNIFIES THE CONSCIENCE OF THE NATION".

--IT IS THE WILL OF THE ASSEMBLY AS REPRESENTATIVE OF PEOPLE
TO REAFFIRM CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY FOR EFFORTS OF
THE TOH LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION TO LEAD THE NATIONAL LIBERATION
MOVEMENT IN HARMONY WITH THE DEEPEST ASPIRATIONS OF THE PANA-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PANAMA 04509 260016Z

MANIAN PEOPLE.

3. THE "RESOLVES" PART OF THE RESOLUTION SIMILARLY DECLARED

SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY FOR TORRIJOS IN HIS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE
PANAMA'S INDEPENDENCE. THE ASSEMBLY ASSURED TORRIJOS THAT HE
WOULD HAVE ITS "UNRESTRICTED" AND "VIGOROUS" SUPPORT FOR WHAT-
EVER MEASURES THE GOP MIGHT TAKE UNDER ARTICLE 277 OF CON-
STITUTION TO ATTAIN PANAMA'S SOVEREIGN DEMANDS. THE ASSEMBLY
RESOLVED TO "EXHORT" THE PROVINCIAL COORDINATION COUNCILS, THE
COMMUNITY BOARDS, LOCAL BOARDS, THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS AND ALL
POPULAR, CIVIC, PEASANT, LABOR, STUDENT, AND TEACHER ORGANI-
ZATIONS TO UNDERTAKE SUCH ACTIVITIES NECESSARY AND REQUESTED
BY TORRIJOS.

4. COMMENT: THE ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTION RECOGNIZED SUCCESSES OF TORRIJOS CONCERNING THE CANAL PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY ITS CONVERSION INTO AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE AND THE GOP'S SUCCESS IN GAINING WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION. ITS RESOUNDING EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PATRIOTISM AND DEDICATION TO NATIONAL GOALS EXHIBITED BY TORRIJOS AND HIS NEGOTIATORS AND ITS AUTHORIZATION TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY WHAT TORRIJOS MOST DESIRED FROM THE ASSEMBLY AT THIS TIME. RADICAL STUDENT GROUPS, AS WELL AS TORRIJOS' CONSERVATIVE OPPONENTS, HAD BEEN QUESTIONING THE CREDIBILITY OF THE GOP'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN PANAMA'S OBJECTIVES IN THE CANAL TREATY

NEGOTIATIONS. NOW WHEN IT IS BECOMING APPARENT THAT NO TREATY IS IN SIGHT AND VISIBLE SIGNS OF PROGRESS MAY BE FEW DURING THE COMING MONTHS, THE PRESSURES AND ATTACKS BY RADICAL STUDENTS AND TORRIJOS' CONSERVATIVE OPPONENTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE. THE ASSEMBLY VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IS SOMETHING TORRIJOS CAN POINT TO AS EVIDENCE OF BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM BY THESE GROUPS. THE MODERATE TONE OF THE RESOLUTION AND ITS SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION TO EXPLORE A "PEACEFUL" MEANS WILL BE HELPFUL TO TORRIJOS IN RESISTING PRESSURES FOR VIOLENT ACTION AND PERHAPS IN BUYING TIME TO CONTINUE THE NEGOTIATIONS.

JORDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PANAMA04509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750258-0956
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750721/aaaaasyi.tel
Line Count: 193
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PANAMA 4480, 75 PANAMA 4481, 75 PANAMA 4482, 75 PANAMA 4495
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <12 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: NACR SESSION V: ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, PANAMA CANAL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006